

## ***The Costs & Consequences of Tobacco Use***

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- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the US, resulting in an estimated 440,000 premature deaths annually.
- Smoking-related illnesses have caused the loss of more than 5 million years of life in the US.
- About 5,200 people in Connecticut die each year from smoking-related causes.
- Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides *combined*.
- The economic cost of smoking is about \$3,391 per smoker per year. In Connecticut alone, this equals more than \$1.7 billion annually.
- Each pack of cigarettes sold in the US costs the nation an estimated \$7.18 in medical care costs and lost productivity.
- The costs associated with pregnancy and smoking are approximately \$4.1 million per year in Connecticut. Additional annual expenditures for infant health problems caused by mothers smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke are \$16 to \$47 million.
- Smokers have been found to suffer from more respiratory problems like colds, pneumonia, influenza, and bronchitis, and their recovery from these illnesses is slower than it is for non-smokers.
- Cigarette smoking causes chronic obstructive lung diseases (COPD), such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.
- Smoking has been linked to an increased risk of macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in the US and the world.
- For men, smoking can cause sexual dysfunction. For women, smoking can cause reproductive disorders, spontaneous abortion, and premature menopause.
- Smoking is a major cause of heart disease.
- Cigarette smoking is the biggest risk factor for sudden cardiac death.
- Smokers who have a heart attack are more likely to die and die suddenly (within 1 hour) than are nonsmokers.
- Smoking has been implicated in the development of many cancers, such as:
  - Lung
  - Esophageal
  - Pharyngeal
  - Laryngeal
  - Pancreatic
  - Liver
  - Kidney
  - Bladder
  - Cervical
  - Colorectal
- Smoking is believed to be responsible for 90% of all lung cancer deaths and 30% of most other cancer deaths.
- Lung cancer mortality rates are 23 times higher for male smokers and 13 times higher for female smokers compared to lifelong never smokers.
- For 2001, The American Cancer Society estimated that 2,000 new cases of lung cancer would be diagnosed among men and women in Connecticut and 1900 would die from the disease.

